Kindergarten Enjoy the Autumn Sunshine
Dear Parents,

Teachers and children are taking full advantage this week of the beautiful Autumn weather. Year 1 are planning a walk around Warners Bay tomorrow (keep your fingers crossed). Unfortunately there are large areas of our playground still too muddy to be used.

Remember to send in Easter eggs for the P&C raffle.

Keep your kids safe online:
Remember: children must be 13 years of age or older to create a Facebook account.

I was listening to two children read the same passage of text. The first child read with beautiful clarity and expression. It was a delight to listen to, but when I asked her some questions about the passage it was obvious that she had understood very little of what she had just so beautifully read. The second child seemed to stumble over every word. He went back and re-read phrases, he seemed to lack continuity. His performance was far removed from the first reader, however when I asked him to describe what he had read he did so with complete and deep understanding.

When readers comprehend, they interpret, integrate, critique, infer, analyse, connect and evaluate ideas in texts. Over the last two years, teachers at Biddabah School have taken up a program known as Focus on Reading.

Focus on Reading is a professional learning program written for classroom teachers that focuses on explicitly teaching reading comprehension. The purpose is to equip students with the strategies they need to meet the changing and challenging demands of texts.

Focus on Reading has taken up the challenge to start a ‘revolution’ about the teaching of reading in infants, primary and into secondary classrooms. Initial feedback indicates that the program is having an immediate and dramatic impact.

The program emphasises highlights the importance and use of:

- rich texts, particularly subject-based texts, and the types of texts that interest and motivate learners in the middle years,
- rich talk of the kind that encourages children to ‘show their thinking’ through talk, and
- ‘deliberate’ teaching that begins with insightful assessment; involves planning for explicit instruction based on students’ needs; supports and scaffolds students through modelled, guided and independent teaching; provides clear and purposeful feedback and constant opportunities for student reflection.

“I feel I’m involved in a program where I can see the difference it’s making even after a short period of time. My students are participating more confidently, enthusiastically and positively in literacy sessions.”
have noted that many students are transferring their knowledge of the strategies I've explicitly taught them into many other areas of the curriculum." (Participating teacher)

Biddabah School has participated in the Focus on Reading program from 2011 onwards under the leadership of our FoR mentor Mrs Michelle Metcalfe. This is made possible through our involvement with other local schools in a specially funded program.

All staff and students are learning about the 6 Steps to Comprehension Success: Predicting, Visualising, Connecting, Monitoring, Questioning and Summarising. This exciting program is making changes in the way we teach reading comprehension to our students.

It's all very exciting and we think our teaching has made a difference. Focus on Reading was originally developed as a Years 3-6 program but at Biddabah we are extending it from Kindergarten as a K-6 program. Our LMG schools, Valentine, Eleebana, Warners Bay, Biddabah and Warners Bay High have extended Focus on Reading into the secondary school and that seems to be working as well.

Now at Biddabah, however we would like to sample your opinions. With this newsletter you will find another survey. At this stage we want to know what parents and carers think. Would you please complete the Focus on Reading survey and the You Can Do It survey sent out last week and return them to school?

Hi there!

Great to see many new families attending the YMCA Biddabah before and after school care service for 2013, open 7am - 9am Monday to Friday, and 3pm – 6pm Monday to Friday.

All the kindy kids have settled in really well and have become familiar with the morning and afternoon routines of the OOSH service. Our numbers have increased significantly this term therefore we currently have a third casual staff member attending up to three days per week, which is great news. Currently OOSH has been celebrating the Chinese new year. Suzanne our educational leader has been busy making a Chinese Dragon /snake for the ‘Year of the snake 2013’. We are continuously programming new activities for the children to participate in. Please come to have a look if you are interested in enrolling your child for 2013 OOSH.

“Extra Special Notice”

Dear Parents and families,

Just a quick note to inform parents and families how full Biddabah OOSH service has become this term. Biddabah has doubled in numbers of attendances for after school care and I would like to ask all parents and families to consider booking in your child as a permanent, due to casual places becoming very limited. Currently this OOSH service is Licenced for 45 children. Our numbers were up in the 40s all week. We are unable to take more than 45 children, therefore we can no longer guarantee casual positions at Biddabah OOSH. If you would like to remain casual please keep this information in mind that you may miss a position on a particular day for your child.

Amanda
YMCA Biddabah OOSH Co-ordinator

Phone 0401 189 553

NO STRAWBERRIES
WE HAVE ENROLLED A LITTLE BOY WHO IS ANAPHYLACTIC TO STRAWBERRIES

WE SAY NO TO PEANUTS, AND ALL NUT PRODUCTS AT BIDDABAH SCHOOL

PLEASE

BIDDABAH STUDENTS ALWASY SAY

Please and Thank You

BLACK SHOES or PLAIN BLACK JOGGERS

Biddabah School Uniform
BRONZE and SILVER awards will be handed out at stage assemblies. GOLD and the DIAMOND will be handed out by me at the whole school assembly, probably in term 4. For students who go on to read for 250 nights plus will still be eligible for a special award at the last whole school assembly for the year.

**Congratulations**

**Winners of Mathletics Certificates**

**Bronze**
- Lizabel Brunskill
- Layna Cook
- Mikayla Hindmarch
- Lucy Reid
- Camille Mossman
- Lexi-Le Owen
- Emilie Courtios
- Alexander Sabotkovski
- Kye Milton
- Aidan Creer
- Bailey Creer
- Mackenzie Curtis
- Lara Gooch
- Mackayla Jones
- Riley New
- Jack Bruce
- Jack Phelps
- Hugo Kidd-Matthews
- Blake Knight
- Chenaye Mancinelli
- Cameron Price
- Cooper Fitchett
- Ethan Cowling
- Eleanor Davies
- Daniel Williams

**Silver**
- Cooper Waddingham
- Taylah Cowling
- Rebecca Dumas
- Egan Ford
- Fleur Davies

**Library News**  Week 6

All classes are now borrowing, with Kinders starting this week. Please encourage your child to keep their borrowed book/s in a library bag to prevent loss and damage. Some students are using green bags (Woolies etc)---they are fine.

**EXCITING** news----Michael Salmon, a well known author illustrator is coming to our school during Bookweek (Thursday, 22nd August). We will have a Book fair that week also. More details nearer the time.

Lots of new books have already been purchased. They are in the process of being accessioned and covered before they can go on the shelves. Do I have any people who could assist with covering. I would be most grateful.

Congratulations to Lara(2MC), Beau(6D), Abbey (2/3), Callan(6H), Lockie(1D) and Freya(3/4C) ---- Library award winners for week 3, 4 and 5

Thelma Keogh

Amy Hain
Lachlan Swan
Mackenzie Dennis
Baylee Dennis

Will receive a certificate at the next Friday school assembly.
Congratulations to the following students for achieving a **Silver Certificate** in the School Banking Program:

Sienna Rex

Congratulations to the following students for achieving a **Gold Certificate** in the School Banking Program:

Angus Mossman  
Max Roach  
Flynn Warrington

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an **Outstanding Certificate** in the School Banking Program:

Laura Hyslop  
Ella McGregor  
Mia Hyslop  
Charlotte Bagnall

**WANTED:** Students to take up an instrument in our fantastic school band.

Mr Ward, is especially, looking for anyone interested in playing the drums, but all instruments are available on excellent terms. Research into a musical education has shown positive outcomes for student’s learning in all areas.

If anyone is interested please see Mr Ward on Tuesday mornings or Mrs Broxom for details.

Thank you.

---

**In their own Write**

Today’s featured class is 1B.

1B have been writing **recounts**. We wrote one recount about a weekend we enjoyed. We tried to write when we did things by using different ‘time’ words in our recounts – e.g. last, finally, next, when, after that, then, weekend, Saturday, Sunday, first of all .......

Aidan wrote: Last weekend, Dad and I went to the lake to ride our bikes. Then we went back home. Finally we got home. It was lots of fun.

Braith wrote: Last weekend my family went to Canberra. Then we went fishing. Next we went to Speers Point Park. Then we went home. I had lots of fun.

Ben A wrote: On Sunday, my brother, my Dad and I played handball. Then my brother bounced the ball high. So then it was like piggy-in-the-middle. After that we went into my house.

Eva wrote: On Sunday I went to the park. When I got there I went on the big flying fox. Then I went home. It was fun.

Indy wrote: Last Saturday my Mum, my little sister, Eden, and I went to the Belmont Netball courts. I got to see some twin babies there. After that we left to go and pick up my little brother, Sunny, from the Warners Bay netball courts. Then we all went to the Pizza Shop.

Jack M. wrote: On the weekend my brother, Joey and I went to the park. We met some friends there. Next I went to the beach. At last we went home.

Ben S wrote: Last weekend my Dad and I went to register for soccer. After that we went home. It was dark. It was a great day.

Maya wrote: Last weekend I went to my Dad’s and I stayed at his house. It was raining all weekend. Then I went to my cousin’s house. I got to meet my step-cousins. I hope I will get to see them again soon.

Kani wrote: On Saturday my whole family went to the park. After that I went bike riding. At last we finally went home.

Angus wrote: Last weekend I watched ‘Two Fairy Two’ at home. Then Mum and I went to my Uncle’s house. I had fun.

Travis wrote: On Saturday my family went to Charlestown pool. I dove in and swam the whole length. After that we went home. When we got home it was raining.
**Tully wrote**: On the weekend Dad and I went to Speers Point Park and we went on the big slide. We went to soccer to put my name down to play. We had icecream and we went home.

**Jack L. wrote**: On Sunday we went to Charlestown Square. Avarne had her birthday party at Time Zone. Then I went into Time Zone. After that I played 55 games. Then I went home. Finally I had a big drink. Then I had a rest.

**Keighan wrote**: Last weekend Sam, my Dad and I went to my Nan’s pool. Before we went home we had to get my thongs. Finally we went home.

**Zayne wrote**: On the weekend I went fishing with Braith, his Dad, Glen, and my Dad. Glen caught two fish and my Dad caught one fish. It was fun! After that we went to Braith’s Nan’s place to drop off the boat. I can’t wait to go fishing again.

**Amelia wrote**: Last Saturday my family went out for lunch for my Nan’s birthday. Before we went home I played a game on a phone. At last we went home and we all had a rest. We had lots of fun!

**Paige wrote**: On the weekend I went to a Coffee shop with my Dad. Before we went home it started to rain hard.

**Charli wrote**: On the weekend, my friend came over to play. After we played, we went inside for an iceblock. At last we sat down inside and watched TV. I hope that it happens again.

**Sienna wrote**: On the weekend my family went to the park for my friend’s birthday. It was really fun. After that I had an ice-cream. Finally I went back to my house. I hope I can go there again.

**Kirra wrote**: Last Sunday my family went church for my brother’s christening. It was fun. Next we went home and had a lot of party food. Then it started to rain. It was a sunny and a rainy day.

**Mikaylah wrote**: On the weekend my Dad and I stayed at home and played the X-box. Then we went to someone’s house. After that we went back home to get Dad’s wallet, then we went to the shops. I want to play X-box again.

**Kahnae wrote**: Last Saturday my Mum and Dad and I went to the park and we had fun. We went on the slide. When we had a slushie then we went home. Then we played Lego. It was lots of fun. Then we went to sleep.

---

**SCHOOL DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Scripture Assembly 9.30am(Tue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Council/P&amp;C (Wed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly 3M (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>EASTER HAT PARADE 2.00pm (Thur)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY (Mon) Cross Country (Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Assembly 4/5W (Fri)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**P&C News**

The next meeting of the Biddabah P&C and School Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20 March

THIS WILL BE THE AGM

School Council 6.30pm      P&C 7.30pm
Easter Raffle

This year the Easter raffle will be drawn on Monday 25th March.

As Easter eggs and products are already on display we are asking our families for donations of Easter eggs, Easter products and gift bags and baskets which will be put together to form the prizes on offer in our Easter raffle.

These items can be left at the school office.

We will be putting the prizes together on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the hall and on Friday 22nd March from 2pm til 3pm in the hall.

Raffle tickets will be sent home with your child on Monday, and need to be returned to the office by Thursday 21st March.

Extra books of raffle tickets will also be available from the office.

If you have any questions feel free to give me a call on 0432310741.

Many Thanks

Mandy Swan
Fundraising Coordinator

Can'ton News

The canteen roster for Term 2 is now in the canteen. Please call in to volunteer your time, once a month or once a term would be great, or alternatively phone or text me a date when you are available.

Unfortunately our milk supplier cannot supply Vanilla Malt milk so we will only have Banana milk as an alternative to strawberry.

There has been a price increase on our Vanilla Lime and Apple Raspberry Juice Bombs. These will now sell for $1.70 not $1.50. Effective Monday 3rd March.

Just a reminder that we have fruit available for purchase before school for fruit break.

All lunch orders must be received at the canteen by 9.15am.

Please check our specials board for new items and daily specials.

If you have any queries in regards to menu items or anything canteen related I will be in the canteen Monday to Friday from 8am until 11.30am of give me a call on 0432310741.

Many thanks

Mandy Swan
Canteen Manager

As the uniform shop is currently undergoing renovations all ordering needs to be done through the office. If unsure of sizes order the size you think is appropriate and if its too big/small just leave it at the office for exchange.

Due to the introduction of our new ordering system can I please ask parents to have patience at this time. We will endeavour to have your orders to you in the week following when you placed your order however it may take time for your order to be processed, especially if we are waiting on stock to arrive from our suppliers. Therefore some preplanning may be required when working out your child/childrens uniform requirements. Any enquiries about the uniform shop can be made with myself on 0432 310 741.

Many thanks

Mandy Swan
Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEN ROSTER – Term 1 Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Mar 11</th>
<th>Tracey Jupp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Leanne Fong, Nicole Robbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Tracie Lavelle, Kristy Caroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>Paula Boersma, Jo Campbell -Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Tracie Lavelle, Emma Swain , Abbey Bagnall, Deb Marriott, Melissa Adams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lake Macquarie Football Club
*URGENTLY* Seeking U8 & U9 Players

LMFC are urgently seeking U8 (turning 8 this year) and U9 (turning 9 this year) for our teams in 2013.

If interested please contact Greg (Bob) Willis
LMFC Secretary on 0421 573 074, email: secretary@lmfc.com.au
More information or to Register
ONLINE at www.lmfc.com.au

Ulinga Netball is looking for 9 year old players.
Contact 4954 7952 or 04089 75922

Thankyou
Ulinga Natball

BOOKCLUB
ORDERS DUE

Tuesday 12 March

No Orders will be accepted after this date

We all love dogs but for the safety of our children, please do not bring them on to the school grounds

ORDER OF THE WEEK

Business Card Size
$14.33 (week)
$85.80 (term)

¼ Page
$25.30 (week)
$220 (year)

½ Page
$41.80 (week)

Full Page
$69.30 (week)

Distribute Your Pamphlets
$25.00 (week)

SPECIAL OFFER
¼ Page Advertisement
1 Year
$220.00

This newsletter is produced each Thursday by the students and staff of Biddabah Public School. For further information phone 4954 6058

Subscriptions can be mailed each week for $12/term or $25/year. Contact Christine or Michelle for details.

Advertisers please contact Christine or Michelle to negotiate special rates. Parents are reminded that paid advertisements are not necessarily endorsed by the school, but they do assist with the costs of publication.

Graeme Mason
Principal
Welfare & Values: Parent

This survey is designed primarily to investigate how you perceive the social and emotional wellbeing and values of students at our school.

Please respond for one child only.

Your Child’s Class ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I believe social emotional well-being and values are an important aspect of development in the primary school child.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>My child seems to enjoy his/her ‘You Can Do It’ lessons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>I am aware of the explicit language used in the school uses to develop Social and Emotional Well-Being and values through the ‘You Can Do It’ program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>My child appears to have improved in his/her social and emotional well-being.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>My child knows the 5 Keys to Success and language to support his/her knowledge of the program. (see over)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>My child is able to use the ‘You Can Do It’ Keys to Success and apply this to develop achievement, well-being and positive relationships.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>I am happy with the way social and emotional development and values are taught in the school through the “You Can Do It” program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>I believe that the methods used to acknowledge the development of a child’s social and emotional well-being and values are satisfactory, eg. merit awards, positive feedback, newsletters, assemblies, consistent language, assessment etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>My child has shown progress in academics, values and their ownership of learning and behaviour through the use of the YCDI program using the 5 foundations and Positive Habits of the Mind. (see over)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives
Achievement, Positive Relationships and Behaviour, Emotional Well-Being

Outside Influences on Students
- Effective Teaching
- Positive Parenting
- Community Support

Inside Characteristics of Students (The 5 Foundations)
- Getting Along
- Organisation
- Persistence
- Confidence

Resilience
Habits of the Mind (Ways of Thinking)
- Social Responsibility
- Playing by the Rules
- Thinking First
- Being Tolerant of Others
- Planning My Time
- Setting Goals
- Working Tough
- Giving Effort
- I Can Do It
- Being Independent
- Taking Risks
- Accepting Myself
WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU!!

Are you a single mum or do you know anyone who is? Lions Club Australia is supporting a local single mother to start a new Club in the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area.

This Club will provide a free, fun & friendly environment for single mums to meet each fortnight. There will be interesting speakers, practical workshops, external assistance resources and a chance to share with others. We are launching this Club with a free information night. If you’re interested in attending or providing support please join us:

When: Monday 18th February
Time: 7.30pm with a brief presentation at 8pm.
Where: Lakelands Community Hall

We are looking to contact new members. If you would like further information about the evening feel free to contact Natalie at smums.org@gmail.com
Focus on Reading: Parent

This survey is designed primarily to investigate your child’s reading ability, and whether the literacy program called Focus on Reading that began last year has had any impact on this.

Please respond for one child only.

Your Child’s Class ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Does your child like reading?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>I feel my child is progressing well in Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>I am aware that a new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading that has been introduced to the school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading has been discussed with me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>I would like to know more about the school’s new reading comprehension program called Focus on Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s attitude to school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s reading skills in relation to comprehension.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed a change in my child’s overall enjoyment of reading.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>In the last year or so I have noticed my child is reading a greater variety of literature than s/he did last year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>My child has talked about strategies or things s/he does when reading to assist his/her comprehension or fluency skills.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>My child talks more about what goes on in class than s/he did last year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>I think the Focus on Reading program has made a difference to my child’s reading.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>In what ways has the Focus on Reading program made a difference to your child’s reading?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>